AAAS
ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

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Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Publisher, *Science*

The Honorable John Boehner
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
CC: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific organization, I write to you in strong support of the federal research and development budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF is unique among federal agencies in that it supports all disciplines in a balanced portfolio that uses the scientific peer review system as the foundation for awarding research grants based on merit.

In response to reports of an amendment seeking to eliminate NSF spending on important political science research, we hope to draw your attention to a letter signed last year by 149 scientific societies that strongly opposes attempts to eliminate or substantially reduce funding for specific areas of science, such as social, behavioral, and economic sciences. You can read the letter in its entirety here: http://www.aaas.org/gr/docs/11-07-11nsf_letter.pdf.

NSF political science research grants have contributed to important research on democratization, radicalization and terrorism, disaster response, and voting behavior. Another example is research on the notion of the commons, which won Dr. Elinor Ostrom a Nobel Prize in Economics.

I urge you to protect the integrity of the scientific enterprise by ensuring that NSF and its independent scientific panels determine where the best scientific opportunities are, including in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. We at AAAS stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner

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